

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 4-6 are amended and Claims 7 and 8 are added by the present response. Support for amendments to the claims can be found in the disclosure as originally filed. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Dworkin (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0071540, hereinafter Dworkin) and in further view of Dailey et al. (U.S. Patent 6,363,352, hereinafter Dailey).

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dworkin and Dailey, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended Claim 1 recites, in part,

a generation unit configured to generate the chat space corresponding to the reservation at a predetermined time prior to a distribution start time designated by the reservation; and

an authenticating unit to authenticate the second and third terminals by the use of the shared authentication data, the shared authentication data being the same for both the second and third terminals;

a providing unit configured to provide the second service of the chat space to the first terminal, and the second service of the chat space and the first service to the second and third terminals designated to be distributed by the first terminal, the second service of the chat space and the first service being provided to the second and third terminals simultaneously upon authentication, via actuation of the hyperlink in accordance with the scheduling information of the distribution notice, the providing unit delivering simultaneous access to the second service of the chat space and the first service upon authentication of the shared authentication data at the information processing apparatus.

Dworkin describes an application service provider environment for providing a distributed conferencing configuration. As shown in Fig. 1 of this reference, the configuration (99) includes a plurality of users (100A-100F) employing the Internet (104).

Conferencing resources (112) include both hardware and software components, which are hosted and managed by a conferencing application service provider (110).<sup>1</sup>

In operation, the users (100) may employ the services of the conferencing configuration to facilitate distribution of data and video conferencing without the expense and overhead associated with owning and maintaining their own conference resources. For example, an individual user (100A) would register with the application service provider (ASP) and be provided with an application program interface (API) to receive the necessary software for support facilitating communication with the provider. Likewise, the user may use third-party instant messaging software to communicate with other user.

Dailey describes a system for scheduling a virtual meeting. As shown in Figure 5 of this reference, a software utility may be utilized to invite others to a virtual meeting.<sup>2</sup>

The outstanding Action relies on Dworkin as describing the authenticating unit recited in Claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion.

Specifically, the outstanding Action states on page 5 that “Dworkin discloses that shared authentication (chat room password, log-in access are shared authentication service provided by the ASP) are provided for protecting access to the conference room by others and allowing only authorized user to enter a reserved conference.”

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Dworkin in no way describes or suggests an authenticating unit configured to authenticate the second and third terminals by the use of the shared authentication data where the shared authentication data is the same for both the second and third terminals.

Specifically, in Dworkin users are authenticated into “protected” conference rooms based on the user’s “username.”<sup>3</sup> There is no description or suggestion in Dworkin that users

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<sup>1</sup> Dworkin at paragraph 14.

<sup>2</sup> See Dailey at Figure 5.

<sup>3</sup> See Dworkin, paragraph, 0025, stating “...where only invited users may participate.”

are authenticated into conference rooms based on shared authentication data where the shared authentication data is the same for the terminals or users. In addition, as noted above, the outstanding Action states that the “chat room password” mentioned in Dworkin is equivalent to the shared authentication data recited in Claim 1. Applicants traverse this assertion specifically because the “chat room password” described in paragraph 0026 of Dworkin is clearly described as being used for access to the chat room’s schedule and reservations. There is no description or suggestion in Dworkin that this “chat room password” is used for authenticating the chat room service to the terminals.

In addition, with regard to the user log-in access, clearly the log-in access for each user in Dworkin is not the same. Each user is registered and given login credentials that are unique to the user, therefore the log-in access described in Dworkin cannot be interpreted as being equivalent to the shared authentication data recited in Claim 1.

Further, Dailey does not cure the above noted deficiencies of Dworkin with respect to the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, and Claims 2-6, which recite substantially similar limitations to those discussed above, patently define over Dworkin and Dailey considered individually or in combination; and, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that newly added Claims 7 and 8 also patentably distinguish over Dworkin and Dailey considered individually or in combination.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 1-8, is patently distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

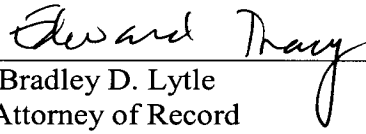
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